

REMARKS

The applicants have thoroughly considered the Official Action dated November 12, 2005, and have prepared this Amendment in response thereto. A Petition for Three Month Extension of Time, and the required petition fee, have been filed concurrently with this Amendment.

The applicants have amended Figure 6 in accordance with the examiner's helpful suggestions. The applicants thank the examiner for the identification of claims 7 – 10, 12 and 17 – 20, as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In light of this identification, the applicants have cancelled claims 1 – 3, amended claim 4 to include the limitations of allowable claim 7, cancelled claims 5 – 7, amended claim 8 to correct its dependency from cancelled claim 7 to claim 4, amended claim 15 to include the limitations of allowable claim 17, cancelled claims 16 - 17, amended claim 18 to correct its dependency from cancelled claim 17 to claim 15, added new claim 24 to rewrite allowable claim 12 in independent form, and added new claims 25 – 26, which correspond to original claims 13 and 14. Claims 4, 8-15 and 18 – 26 remain pending in the application.

The following remarks will follow the order set forth in the Office Action.

Priority

The applicants thank the examiner for pointing out the need to file a certified copy of the Japanese priority document. The applicants acknowledge this requirement and intend to file such a certified copy prior to issuance of the patent, as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). However, the applicants have elected not to incur this expense prior to receipt of a notice of allowance in the application and will file the certified copy upon receipt thereof.

Amendments to the drawings

Figure 6 has been amended as set forth on the “Replacement Sheet” attached hereto to omit reference numbers A – F.

Drawings

The applicants acknowledge the defects in FIG. 6 and have corrected this drawing figure and submitted the attached replacement sheet reflecting these corrections. In particular, the replacement sheet omits the reference figures A – F, which were objected to in the Official Action. The applicants believe that FIG. 6, as amended, complies with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) and respectfully requests that this objection be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the applicants' amendments.

Claim Rejections 35 USC §112

Claims 13, 14 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, due to lack of proper antecedent basis for the claim terms “said bit-planes” and “said computer”. The amendment of independent claims 4 and 5 to include the limitations of claims 7 and 17, respectively, provides the necessary antecedent basis for the rejected claims. Accordingly, the applicants assert that original claims 13, 14 and 21-23 now comply with 35 USC §112 and requests that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

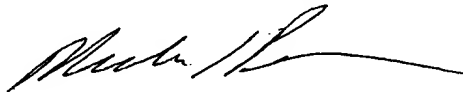
Claims 1 – 3 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Koltai, and claims 4 – 6, 11, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Zhao. The applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections. However, in the interest of obtaining allowance of the claims identified as being allowable, the applicants have elected to amend the claims to reflect the allowable subject matter. In particular, independent claims 4 and 5 were amended to include the limitations of allowable claims

7 and 17, respectively, and new claim 24 was added to rewrite allowable claim 12 in independent form. As independent claims 4, 15 and 24 each include all of the limitations of allowable claims 7, 17 and 12, the applicants assert that the rejections under 35 USC §102 are rendered moot by the applicants' amendments. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that claims 4, 8-15 and 18 – 26 be allowed.

Conclusion

It is felt that a full and complete response has been made to the Official Action and, as such, places the application in condition for allowance. Such allowance is hereby respectfully requested. If the examiner feels, for any reason, that a personal interview will expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to phone the applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Persson
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 41,248
Lawson & Persson, P.C.
67 Water Street, Suite 103
Laconia, NH 03246
Phone: 603-528-0023
Fax: 603-528-3332
Email: mike@laconialaw.com

Date May 12, 2005